Amendments to The Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for reducing the risk of bacterial infection or sepsis in a person colonized with pathogenic bacteria comprising treating the colonized person with a pharmaceutical composition containing bacteriophage of one or more strains which produce lytic infections in said pathogenic bacteria, wherein said treatment occurs prior to said colonized person developing an illness due to said pathogenic bacteria and said treatment reduces the risk of bacterial infection or sepsis in said colonized person, and wherein said treatment of the colonized person reduces the level of colonization with pathogenic bacteria susceptible to the bacteriophage by at least one log, wherein said composition is administered intravesicularly, intrathecally, topically, orally, rectally, ocularly, otically, nasally, or via inhalation.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the colonized person is an immunocompromised patient selected from the group consisting of leukemia patients, lymphoma patients, carcinoma patients, sarcoma patients, allogeneic transplant patients, congenital or acquired immunodeficiency patients, cystic fibrosis patients, and AIDS patients.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the pathogenic bacteria are selected from the group consisting of vancomycin-resistant enterococcus (VRE), pneumococcal species, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, multi-drug resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MDRSA), multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas* species, *Nesseria* sp., *Hemophilus* sp., *Proteus* sp., *Klebsiella* sp. and *Escherichia coli.*

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the pathogenic bacteria are selected from the group consisting of VRE, MDRSA, and multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas.*

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the bacteriophage composition is selected from the group consisting of ~~a parenteral composition,~~ an oral tablet, capsule or liquid, a nasal aerosol, a throat wash, a mouth wash or gargle, a toothpaste, and a topical ointment.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the colonized person is a person having a wound selected from the group consisting of an ulcer, a laceration, a deep penetrating wound and a surgical wound, and the bacteriophage produce lytic infections in pathogenic bacteria capable of infecting these wounds.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the composition is a topical ointment, an irrigation solution or a component of a wound dressing.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical composition contains a plurality of bacteriophage strains.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the pharmaceutical composition contains bacteriophage strains which produce lytic infections in pathogenic bacteria of a plurality of bacterial strains.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the pharmaceutical composition contains bacteriophage strains which produce lytic infections in pathogenic bacteria of a plurality of bacterial species.

13. (Currently amended) A method for reducing the incidence of infection by selected pathogenic bacteria in a medical facility comprising administering to patients admitted to the medical facility a bacteriophage preparation which reduces the colonization level by the selected pathogenic bacteria in patients at risk for infection by the selected pathogenic bacteria, wherein said colonization level is reduced by at least one log, wherein

said bacteriophage preparation is administered intravesicularly, intrathecally, topically, orally, rectally, ocularly, otically, nasally, or via inhalation.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the patients at risk for infection are selected from the group consisting of leukemia patients, lymphoma patients, carcinoma patients, sarcoma patients, allogeneic transplant patients, congenital or acquired immunodeficiency patients, cystic fibrosis patients, and AIDS patients.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said bacteriophage preparation is administered to substantially all patients admitted to said medical facility.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said bacteriophage preparation is administered to substantially all patients colonized with the selected bacteria who are admitted to said medical facility.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the selected pathogenic bacteria is VRE, MDRSA, or multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas.*

18.-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the pathogenic bacteria are selected from the group consisting of VRE, MDRSA, and multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas* species.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the pathogenic bacteria are selected from the group consisting of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and MDRSA.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the selected bacteria is VRE, MDRSA, or multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas.*

32. (Currently amended) A method for reducing the level of colonization in a patient comprising treating the patient with a composition containing bacteriophage of one or more strains which produce lytic infections in pathogenic bacteria, wherein said patient is colonized with the pathogenic bacteria subject to infection by said bacteriophage, and wherein said treatment of the patient reduces the level of colonization with pathogenic

bacteria susceptible to the bacteriophage by at least one log, wherein said composition is administered intravesicularly, intrathecally, topically, orally, rectally, ocularly, otically, nasally, or via inhalation.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the susceptible patient is an immunocompromised patient selected from the group consisting of leukemia patients, lymphoma patients, carcinoma patients, sarcoma patients, allogeneic transplant patients, congenital or acquired immunodeficiency patients, cystic fibrosis patients, and AIDS patients.

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 32, wherein the pathogenic bacteria are selected from the group consisting of VRE, pneumococcal species, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, MDRSA, multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas* species, *Nesseria* sp., *Hemophilus* sp., *Proteus* sp., *Klebsiella* sp. and *Escherichia coli.*

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the pathogenic bacteria are selected from the group consisting of VRE, MDRSA, and multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas.*

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 32, wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of ~~a parenteral composition,~~ an oral tablet, capsule or liquid, a nasal aerosol, a throat wash, a mouth wash or gargle, a toothpaste, and a topical ointment.

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 32, wherein the patient has a wound selected from the group consisting of an ulcer, a laceration, a deep penetrating wound and a surgical wound, and the bacteriophage produce lytic infections in pathogenic bacteria capable of infecting these wounds.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is a topical ointment, an irrigation solution or a component of a wound dressing.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the composition contains a plurality of bacteriophage strains.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the composition contains bacteriophage strains which produce lytic infections in pathogenic bacteria of a plurality of bacterial strains.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the composition contains bacteriophage strains which produce lytic infections in pathogenic bacteria of a plurality of bacterial species.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the pathogenic bacteria are selected from the group consisting of VRE, MDRSA, and multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas* species.

44. (Currently amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the pathogenic bacteria are selected from the group consisting of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and MDRSA.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the pathogenic bacteria is VRE.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the pathogenic bacteria is MDRSA.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the pathogenic bacteria is multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas* species.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the composition is a nasal spray.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the composition is a mouth wash or gargle.

51-52. (Canceled)

53. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the bacteriophage composition is selected from the group consisting of tampons, rinses, creams, and aerosols.

54. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of an oral tablet, capsule or liquid, a nasal aerosol, a throat wash, a mouth wash or gargle, a toothpaste, and a topical ointment.

55. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the bacteriophage composition is selected from the group consisting of tampons, rinses, creams, and aerosols.

56. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the bacteriophage composition is selected from the group consisting of tampons, rinses, creams, and aerosols.